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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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INFO.

SUBJECT Notes on SED Activities

DIST. 1 December 1947

PAGES

ORIGIN 25X1

SUPPLEMENT

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SOURCE

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1.

subscription figures were reported for the following newspapers:

Neues Deutschland58,000 (loss of 46,000 from its highest total)
Vorwärts.....25,000 (loss of 26,000)
Berliner Zeitung.....234,000
Sozialdemokrat.....94,000
Tagesspiegel.....98,000 (loss of 10,000)
Telegraf.....107,000 (subscription drive not yet completed)

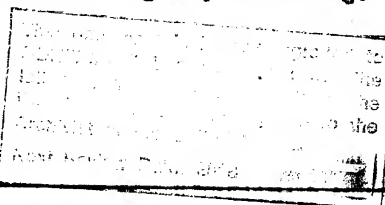
The drop in subscriptions to SED newspapers was attributed to the obvious evidences of Russian influence and domination over these papers; the dull, doctrinal lead articles; their neglect of youth and youth problems; one-sided news material; excessively venomous polemics, particularly against the SPD; complete reproduction of Russian speeches; and the lack of good cultural reporting.

2. Increasing tension is felt in the SED because of its obvious failure to achieve its set goals and the consequent transfer of Russian attention and favor to the trade unions. The occupying power now regards the labor unions as able to represent its unity goal more persuasively and effectively than the SED, not only in the eastern, but also in the western zones.
3. A SED-sponsored "People's Movement" for the transfer of private businesses to public ownership is to be started in the Russian zone. Delegations from state-owned industries will submit petitions on the subject to the proper authorities. Cuts in the delivery of raw materials and semi-finished products will force down the production level of the private industries concerned, furnishing a basis for the institution of legal proceedings against them.

VOID

CLASSIFICATION

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
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